



# PRESS RELEASE

## U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

### United States Leads High-Tech Delegation to Explore ICT Access and Skills

**March 4, 2013** -- A U.S. delegation of representatives from information and communication technology (ICT) industry leaders Cisco, Google, HP, Intel, and Microsoft wrapped up a week-long visit to Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw to explore a range of joint opportunities for accelerating affordable access to the Internet, strengthening transparent and efficient government, and bolstering skills building.

Convened by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the high-tech delegation met with a wide range of public and private sector representatives and universities to discuss opportunities that can advance the country's progress toward the goals of the U.S.-Burma Partnership for Democracy, Peace and Prosperity, the Open Government Partnership, and the government's Framework for Economic and Social Reform.

"It has been an extremely successful visit," said Maura O'Neill, USAID Chief Innovation Officer. "I believe the government and industry and higher education leaders appreciated the commitment these world-class U.S. companies made to exploring collaboration opportunities on both social and economic development priorities. The promise of this new era is huge and we all share the same goal to move quickly to realize it."

The delegation discussed opportunities for the technology companies to improve people's access to information, create business opportunities, lower transaction costs and enhance social interaction. They examined skills building opportunities at all levels of the national education system, including ICT technical training and adult learning to use technology to expand civic participation and to build connections between citizens and their government. The delegation also explored opportunities to promote innovations in extending information technology access to underserved areas.

USAID has long standing relationships with the major global technology companies with track record of advancing development outcomes while aligning with core business interests. The technology companies bring deep expertise, leading-edge technology products and platforms, and extensive experience in leveraging their core business and technology capabilities to advance outcomes ranging from strengthening governance and transparency, advancing education and fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth.

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*Members of the delegation visit a university in Yangon. USAID photo.*